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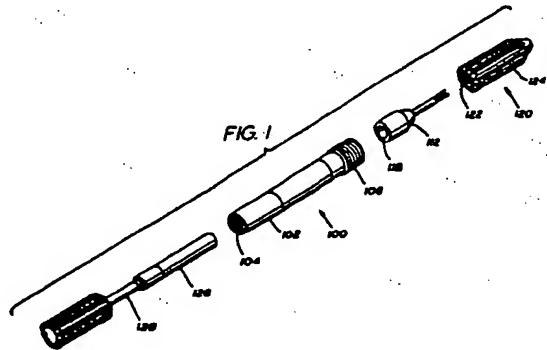
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(54) Tool for inserting compressible intraocular lenses into the eye and method.

(57) The tool (100) and method for preparing for insertion into an eye an intraocular lens (130) formed of a compressible material includes an elongated hollow chamber (118) with an inlet end and an outlet end (116). An intraocular lens formed of a compressible material is extruded to a smaller size that fits in the elongated chamber by a compressor (126) which includes an outlet adapted to be aligned with the inlet end of the elongated chamber. The extruded intraocular lens is pushed through the elongated chamber from the inlet end through to the outlet end.

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TOOL FOR INSERTING COMPRESSIBLE INTRAOCULAR LENSES INTO THE EYE AND METHOD

Background of the Invention

The present invention relates to tools and methods for inserting compressible intraocular lenses into the eye, and more particularly into the eye through as small an incision as possible including that for phacoemulsification methods of cataract surgery.

Numerous procedures for the removal of cataracts have been developed in which the natural lens is removed from the eye and replaced by an artificial lens implant, a so-called intraocular lens. While implantation of intraocular lenses is considered to be a relatively safe procedure, one of the principal disadvantages of conventional rigid intraocular lenses is that implantation of the lens requires a relatively large incision in the ocular tissue, which could result in complications such as an increased risk of post-operative astigmatism, prolonged healing period, laceration of the ocular tissues particularly with respect to the cornea and the pupil.

Lenses have recently been developed which are deformable and thus able to fit through relatively small incisions in the ocular tissue into the internal chambers of the eye. Small incision insertion surgery decreases the post-operative healing and rehabilitation time as well as the potential complication of suturing induced astigmatism.

These lenses are designed to retain a prescribed configuration once implanted in the central optical area and have prescribed memory characteristics which enable the lens to be deformed to fit through a smaller ocular incision and then reformed once in the eye. The construction and design of some of these lenses and known methods for implanting them are described in U.S. Patent 4,573,998 to Mazzocco, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

One example of a device for inserting a deformable lens is the Faulkner Folder TM for Staar silicone lenses. Faulkner holding forceps are used to hold the silicone lenses which are then folded by the inserting device. The Staar insertion device, however, merely folds the lens without compressing it and thus does not really reduce the cross-sectional area of the lens. As such, the size of the incision required for insertion is not necessarily or significantly reduced for most lenses required for implantations which are greater than 18 diopters. The refractive index of the material of the intraocular lens, the dioptic power of the intraocular lens, the thickness and width of the intraocular lens

are factors which ultimately decide the cross-sectional area of the unfolded and subsequently folded lens which in turn may require an insertion channel for this approach that is much larger than acceptable.

Also, folding of a lens as this approach requires may not always be possible for high diopter, thicker lenses of certain materials. Further, this approach not only requires a larger incision, but it also does not permit release of the lens in a controlled manner due to the stored elastic energy from the bending. This could possibly result in damage to the cornea or other portions of the eye if the lens should spring loose from the lens holder.

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Objects of the Invention

Accordingly, it is the principal object of the present invention to provide an improved method and instrument for inserting compressible intraocular lenses through small incisions in the eye.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a novel tool for inserting a compressible intraocular lens into the eye which results in a reduced size of the opening required for insertion.

A further object of the present invention is to provide an improved insertion tool which reduces the cross-sectional area of the lens by extruding it and thereby allows insertion through a smaller opening.

A still further object of the present invention is to provide an improved insertion instrument which prevents the lens from becoming misaligned or from snagging the edge of the incision during insertion thereof into the eye.

Another object is to provide an improved insertion tool which prevents the compressible lens from damaging the cornea or other tissue of the eye upon release in the eye.

A further object is to provide a unique method of reducing the cross-sectional area of the optical zone of a compressible intraocular lens so it can be inserted into and delivered through a small cannula system into the eye.

A further object is to provide a novel loading system which eliminates the need to hand roll the intraocular lens into an insertion tool.

Another object is to provide an improved instrument and method which increase the speed and accuracy of the process for loading a compressible intraocular lens into the eye.

A further object is to provide an improved insertion tool which delivers the intraocular lens into the eye in a more controlled manner.

A still further object is to provide a novel insertion tool which minimizes the need to physically handle the lens after it has been lubricated.

Another object is to provide an improved insertion tool design which decreases the likelihood of the insertion tool contacting or touching the corneal endothelium or other ocular structures when releasing the lens in the eye.

A further object is to provide an improved insertion tool which can load compressible lenses having larger cross-sectional areas into an insertion tubing.

A still further object is to provide an improved system for inserting foldable intraocular lenses into the eye without damaging the lens, with minimal resulting trauma to the eye, and which minimizes the amount of manual manipulation of the lens required.

Another object is to provide a novel apparatus and method for controllably inserting an elastomeric intraocular lens of about six mm optic diameter through an ocular incision of approximately the size required for a standard phacoemulsification tip, which is about 3.0 to 3.5 mm or with minimum enlargement of this incision depending upon the material and the diopter power of that intraocular lens.

A further object is to provide an intraocular lens insertion tool whose tip inserts easily into the eye and is configured to minimize the likelihood of damage to the capsular bag during the insertion procedure.

A still further object is to provide an improved intraocular lens insertion tool which is easy to load and to operate.

Another object is to provide a novel intraocular lens insertion tool that is easily and inexpensively manufactured such as to be disposable after a single use.

Other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to those persons having ordinary skill in the art to which the present invention pertains from the following description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 is a perspective view of an insertion tool of the present invention wherein the parts thereof are illustrated in exploded relation.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view taken about line 2-2 of Figure 1.

Figure 3 is a perspective view of a push rod to be used with the tool of Figure 1.

Figure 4 is a side cross-sectional view of the push rod of Figure 3.

Figure 5 is a side cross-sectional view of the tool of Figure 1.

Figure 6 is a side view of the tool of Figure 1 illustrated in its assembled condition.

5 Figure 7 is an enlarged view of the distal end of the tool of Figure 1 illustrating in a simplified manner the elastomeric plunger thereof initially engaging the compressible intraocular lens.

10 Figure 8 is a view similar to Figure 7 illustrating the plunger forcefully extruding the lens into the cannula.

15 Figure 9 is a perspective view of the insertion tool of Figure 1 showing the lens being ejected from the cannula tip.

20 Figure 10 is an enlarged view of the cannula tip taken about line 10-10 of Figure 9 illustrating an extruded lens being ejected.

25 Figure 11 is a perspective view of a tool illustrating another embodiment of the present invention with the parts shown in exploded relation.

Figure 12 is an enlarged perspective view taken on line 12-12 of Figure 11.

30 Figure 13 is a side cross-sectional view of the insertion tool of Figure 11.

35 Figure 14 is a cross-sectional view taken about line 14-14 of Figure 13.

Figure 15 is a perspective view of the insertion tool of Figure 11 illustrated in its ready to insert condition.

40 Figure 16 is an enlarged view taken on line 16-16 of Figure 15 illustrating a squeezed lens being ejected.

45 Figures 17 through 24 illustrate in simplified form an insertion tool system illustrating another embodiment of the present invention.

Figure 17 is a perspective view of the loading block of this embodiment illustrated in isolation.

50 Figure 18 is a front elevational view of the loading block of Figure 17 illustrating the movement of the sliding plate thereof.

Figure 19 illustrates the cannula alignment procedure thereof.

55 Figure 20 illustrates the preloading of the intraocular lens step.

Figure 21 illustrates the intraocular lens compression step.

Figure 22 illustrates the loading of the cannula step.

60 Figure 23 is a top plan view of Figure 22 illustrating the transfer of the intraocular lens into the cannula step.

Figure 24 illustrates the removal of the cannula with the lens in it from the loading block step.

65 Figure 25 illustrates the assembly of the cannula into the insertion tool step.

Figure 26 is a plan view of an intraocular lens which can be inserted with the insertion tools of the present invention.

Figure 27 is a fragmentary cross-sectional side view illustrating in a simplified manner an assembly for squeezing an intraocular lens of the present invention.

Figure 28 is an end elevational view of the assembly of Figure 27.

Figure 29 is a view similar to Figure 28 illustrating a single slide variant.

Figure 30 is a plan view of a first embodiment of a tip of the cannula of any of the insertion tools of the present invention.

Figure 31 is a side view of the cannula tip of Figure 30.

Figure 32 is a front view of the cannula tip of Figures 30 and 31.

Figure 33 is a side view of a second embodiment of a cannula tip of the present invention.

Figure 34 is a plan view of the cannula tip of figure 33.

Figure 35 is a side view of a third embodiment of a cannula tip of the present invention.

Figure 36 is a plan view of the cannula tip of Figure 35.

Figure 37 is a plan (or elevational) view of a fourth embodiment of a cannula tip of the present invention.

Figure 38 is a side cross-sectional view of another embodiment of the insertion tool of the present invention.

Figure 39 is a side partially-sectional view of the push rod to be used with the tool of Figure 38.

Figure 40 is a fragmentary side view of a variant of the tool of Figure 38.

Figure 41 is a cross-sectional top view of the tool of Figure 40.

Figure 42 is a perspective view of the cannula body and plunger housing portions of another insertion tool of the present invention whose parts are illustrated in exploded relation.

Figure 43 is a perspective view of a plunger for the tool of Figure 42.

Figure 44 is a perspective view of a push rod for the tool of Figure 42.

Figure 45 is a partial sectional view of the disassembled head for the plunger of Figure 43.

Figure 46 is a partial sectional view of the disassembled head for the push rod of Figure 44.

Figure 47 is a side view partially in section of the assembled cannula body and plunger housing of Figure 42.

Figure 48 illustrates a first step of the procedure for loading the lens into the loading chamber of the tool of Figure 42.

Figure 49 illustrates a second step of the loading procedure.

Figure 50 illustrates a third step of the loading procedure.

Figure 51 illustrates a fourth step of the loading procedure.

Figure 52 is an end elevational view of the loading chamber showing the lens loaded therein after completion of the fourth step as shown in Figure 52.

Figures 53-54 illustrate insertion of the tool in a human eye and positioning of an intraocular lens after it has been deposited by the instrument.

Figures 55-60 illustrate an intraocular lens emerging from the distal end of the insertion tool.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Referring to Figure 1 an insertion tool of the present invention is illustrated generally at 100. Tool 100 includes a tubular body 102 having a smooth inner surface and an internal thread 104 at its proximal or tail end and a threaded or male coupling 108 at its opposite distal or head end.

A cannula is provided as shown at 112 in Figure 1, and in isolation and greater detail in Figure 2. The cannula 112 includes a cannula head 114 and an attached cannula member 116 in the form of a cylindrical, elliptical, oval or diamond shaped tube. The cannula head 114 defines an inner loading chamber 118 which includes a cylindrical passageway section 118a and a tapered or conical passageway section 118b that converges towards and protrudes into the cannula member 116. The cannula head 114 is attached to the distal side of the tubular body 102 by an overclamping nut 120 using a threaded or female coupling 122 for fast attachment. As shown in Figure 1, the overclamping nut 120 has outer ribbed surfaces 124 adapted to be grasped for twisting (or untwisting) it into place.

A soft elastomeric plunger 126 is inserted into the proximal end of the tubular body 102 and driven by a screw 128 or by other mechanical, hydraulic, electrical or other equivalent means into the tubular body 102. The plunger 126 is shown in Figure 5 inserted into the tubular body 102. Referring to Figure 7, the intraocular lens 130 is shown positioned in the inner loading chamber 118 and the plunger 126 is shown positioned to initially engage the lens 130. As the screw 128 is turned, the plunger 126 is forced towards the cannula member 116 and the lens 130 is pressed against the inside converging surfaces of the cone 118 which thereby exert a radial force against it, and the axial driving motion (shown by the arrow) of the plunger 126 pushes the radially-deformed lens 130 into its extruded position in the cannula member 116, as shown in Figure 8.

This extrusion actually reduces the cross-sectional area of the optical zone of the lens 130 so

that it can be delivered into and through a very small cannula member or system. After having been thereby extruded into the cannula member 116, the plunger 126 is removed from the tubular body 102 and a push rod 134 is inserted therein.

The push rod 134, which is shown in Figures 3 and 4, includes a narrow elongated rod 136 configured to fit into the narrow cannula member 116 and having a soft material at its tip 138 to protect the lens 130 against damage when impacted thereby. The push rod 134 is driven, similar to the plunger, by a screw 139 (or 128), or other mechanical, hydraulic, electrical or suitable means, towards the distal tip 140 of the cannula tip 112.

Accordingly, the operating procedure for tool 100 is very simple. A lubricated soft intraocular lens 130 is inserted with forceps (not shown) into the inner loading chamber 118 of the cannula head 114. The cannula head 114 is aligned with and firmly attached to the tubular body 102 by twisting the overclamping nut 120 into place as depicted in Figures 5 and 6. The elastomeric plunger 126 is inserted into the tail or proximal end of the tubular body 102 and then with a mechanical screw 128 (or other means) is driven until the lens 130 is extruded and fully loaded in the cannula member 116. Thus the lens is pressed from the back by the plunger 126 and pushed through the cone into the smaller cannula opening, and is not thereby, from a technical point of view, compressed but rather extruded into the cannula 116. The plunger 126 is then removed from tubular body 102 and replaced with a push rod 134 which pushes the lens out from the cannula member 116 and into the eye by twisting its screw member end 139.

There is no need initially, or at any time, to hand roll the intraocular lens. The loading procedure is quick and accurate and the intraocular lens 130 is delivered in a very controlled manner into the eye. The lens can be inserted thusly through an incision in a size range of 1.5 to 5.0 mm. depending upon the property of the material of the intraocular lens and the needed dioptric lens power.

A modified tool design of this invention is illustrated in Figure 38 and generally at 150. Tool 150 comprises a tube body 152 having a proximal end, a distal end and a channel extending therethrough. A female coupling 154 is provided at the distal end by being press fit to or injection molded with tube body 152 to thereby define a single piece. The cannula shown generally at 158 has an elongated cannula member 160 and at its proximal end a cannula body 162 secured to the elongated cannula member.

Tube body 152 defines a male coupling and is threaded at a steep angle to define a Luer lock 164 with the female coupling 154. The Luer lock is

similar to that used to attach a needle to a syringe. The cannula body 162 is internally configured to define a cone 166 converging and opening towards the channel of the cannula member 160.

5 A plunger 168 is fitted into the channel of the tube body 152. The plunger has a rubber or elastomeric boss 170 at its distal end and a screw 172 at its proximal end. The screw 172 has a gripping head 174 which when grasped and turned relative to the tube body 152 causes the boss 170 to advance towards the cone 166 and to press an intraocular lens, such as lens 130, against and through the cone and extrude it into the cannula member 160.

10 15 The cannula body 162 can be formed of a clear plastic material, and boss 170 colored a dark color such as brown, so that the intraocular lens and boss are visible through it and it can be readily determined when the lens has been extruded into the cannula member by the boss and thus when it is no longer necessary to continue turning the gripping head 174.

20 25 After the lens has been extruded into the cannula member 160, the screw 172 is removed from the tube body 152. Then similar to the embodiment of Figure 1 a push rod 180, shown in Figure 39, is inserted into the channel of the tube body 152 and its distal end is advanced through the cannula member 160 and against the lens extruded therein to eject the lens out of distal tip 182 of the cannula member 160 and into the eye. Distal tip 182 is configured to allow for the gradual controlled release of the extruded lens from the cannula member into the eye. Examples of suitable tip configurations are illustrated in Figures 30-37 and described later in detail.

30 35 40 A variant of the tool design of Figure 38 is shown generally at 184 in Figures 40 and 41. Tool 184 similarly includes a cannula 186 formed by an elongated cannula member 187 and a cannula body 188 connected thereto. The cannula member 187 has a flange 189 at its proximal end fitting into a recess in the cannula body 188 to secure the cannula member to the cannula body, as shown in Figure 41.

45 50 55 The tube body 190 has a threaded sleeve 191 forming a female coupling into which the proximal male threaded coupling end 192 of the cannula body 188 is threaded in a conventional manner to attach the cannula 186 to the tube body 190. The cannula body 188 is similarly constructed of a clear plastic material allowing the cone 194 formed therein and the positioning of the lens and plunger tip therein to be easily visualized by the user.

When the plunger tip has extruded the lens into the cannula member (as can be visualized) it is removed from the tube body 190, and the push rod 180 inserted therein to eject the lens out of the

distal cannula tip 196. The tip, though pictured with an alligator type of release, can be configured with any of the designs of Figures 30-37 or their equivalents.

Another embodiment of the present invention is illustrated in Figures 11 through 16, and the loading tool shown therein generally at 200 includes a head 202 with deep narrow slots 203 into which are inserted cams with protruding hand levers 204, 206. A pair of jaws 207, 208 is provided with half elliptical grooves 210, as illustrated in Figure 14. A tubular body 212 is provided having a ring slide holder 214. The head 202 has two threads one on each side; the tail thread 216 is used to attach the tubular body 212 and the front thread or coupling 218 is used for fast attachment by the overclamping nut 220 to clamp down the cannula system, which is shown in Figure 11 and in greater detail in Figure 12 at 222.

The lens is squeezed between grooves 210 by the force of the cams 224 rotating about the pivot pins 226, as shown in Figure 13, by the operation of the hand levers 204, 206. When the hand levers 204, 206 are squeezed towards the tubular body 212 the jaws 207, 208 are positioned so as to be just touching one another and the lens is squeezed in the grooves 210 and thereby formed in an elliptical shape. The cross-section of this ellipse is smaller than the cross-section of the original lens. The hand levers 204, 206 are held in this position against the tubular body 212 by positioning ring slide holder 214 over them as shown in Figure 15. The push rod 234 operated by a screw mechanism 236, or other mechanical, hydraulic, electrical or equivalent means, then pushes the lens out of the cannula 222.

The loading procedure for tool 200 is accordingly very simple. The cannula system 222 and overclamping nut 220 are removed from the head 202. The hand levers 204, 206 are released from the ring slide holder 214 and rotated about the pivot pins 226 so that the angle between the hand levers 204, 206 and tubular body 212 is approximately sixty degrees, as shown in Figure 11, to thereby open the jaws 207, 208.

A lubricated soft intraocular lens is inserted between the jaws 207, 208 into a space created by the half elliptical grooves 210 through the cannula system mounting hole 240 as depicted in Figure 11. The hand levers 204, 206 are then squeezed towards the tubular body 212 and held against it by positioning ring slide holder 214. By this action the cams 224 squeeze the jaws 207, 208 and thereby squeeze the lens.

Subsequently, the cannula system 222 is inserted into its hole or opening 240 in the head 202 and firmly tightened down by overclamping nut 220. The squeezed lens is then pushed out of the

tool 200 by driving the push rod 234 against it. The jaws 207, 208 automatically align the lens with the axis of the cannula system 222. The push rod 234 delivers the intraocular lens through the cannula 222 and out of the cannula tip 242 in a very controlled manner into the eye. Alternatively, a plunger-push rod arrangement as previously described for tool 100 can be provided.

Tools 100 and 200 are designed for current market soft lenses 130. The average usable lens is a six mm optic diopter 130a with a six mm flange 130b width, and having an overall length 130c of 10.0 to 13.0 mm, as shown in Figure 26. However, this does not mean that the tools cannot be used for different dimensions (smaller or larger) or different shapes. Lenses having all anticipated ranges of diopter powers can be inserted by these tools. For the most clinically demanded lenses with diopter powers ranging about eighteen to twenty-five diopters, the maximum incision required would be around 1.5 mm to 5.0 mm depending on the lens material and its refractive index.

The incision size for the present insertion tools can be used with any footplate dioptric lens made of silicone or any other similar flexible material. An example of a currently available footplate haptic lens which can be used is the Staar AA4004 intraocular lens which is a 6.0 mm by 11.5 mm foldable silicone lens designed for placement in the ciliary sulcus.

Another system for loading and inserting a compressible intraocular lens through a small incision is shown in simplified step-by-step manner in Figures 17 through 26. The loading block of this embodiment is shown in Figure 17 at 300. It includes a channel 302 with a roughly elliptical shape one half of which is free to slide, as shown by the sliding plate 304 of Figure 18 or both of sliding plates each having a half of elliptical shape are free to slide as shown on Figure 21, such that the major axis of the channel cross section can be made larger or smaller, while the minor axis remains constant at approximately 1.5 mm.

The channel 302 is opened far enough to allow an undeformed elastomeric intraocular lens to be inserted therein. Lubricant is placed in the channel 302 and the lens 306 inserted therein as by forceps 308 as depicted in Figure 20. The channel 302 is then closed by sliding the sliding plate 304 inward to approximately 3.0 - 3.5 mm thereby forming the lens 306 to the closed shape of the channel and completely enclosing it therein. The plate 304 is locked into position by plate lock 312 depicted in Figure 21. A cannula 320 with a cross-sectional shape matching that of the closed channel is aligned with the channel 302, using alignment tool 310, and affixed to the loading block by a cap member 322.

As shown in Figure 22, a displacing guide 314 is attached to the loading block 300 and the displacing plunger 316 inserted therein. The plunger 316 is then forced by mechanical, hydraulic or other means 318 towards the cannula 320, as illustrated by the arrow in Figure 23, and against the lens 306 forcing the squeezed lens and displacing it into the cannula 320. After the squeezed intraocular lens has been forced into the cannula 320, the cannula 320 is removed from the loading block 300 as shown in Figure 24 and separated from cap member 322.

The cannula 320, with the intraocular lens therein, is then fitted into the handpiece 324 of insertion tool 326 illustrated generally in Figure 25 and the overclamping nut 328 secured thereto to hold it together. The insertion tool 326 allows the cannula 320 to be inserted through the same or slightly larger incision in the eye made for the phacoemulsification cannula. As shown the insertion tool 326 has hand or finger handles 330 (or a separate power supply) and a plunger 332 adapted to be controllably operated as by the surgeon's thumb for pushing or injecting the lens out of the tip 334 of the cannula 320 and into the eye.

Referring to Figures 27 and 28, an intraocular lens 130 can be squeezed (have its cross-sectional area reduced) by moving two slides 402, 404 towards one another and towards lens 130 positioned between them. The slides can be moved in a parallel motion or rotated about pivots. Alternatively, a single slide 406 can be provided and moved towards a stationary housing member 408, as shown in Figure 29. The channel thereby defined can have any suitable cross-sectional configuration including circular, oval, elliptical and diamond. Exemplary devices for effecting this squeezing system include tool 200 and loading block 300, both of which were previously described. Another forcing (extrusion) system of this invention is depicted for example by the cone 118 and elastomeric plunger 126 arrangement of Figure 7.

The tips of the cannulas according to any of the previously (or later) described embodiments are preferably configured to allow for the gradual release of the stored elastic energy of the extruded lens as it is ejected from the cannula. A first embodiment of the cannula tip is shown in Figures 30 through 32 generally at 500 to include a split end. The split end, or alligator type for releasing energy is most clearly illustrated in Figure 31, and includes two extending contoured lips 502, 504 oppositely disposed about the larger axis of the oval cannula configuration. Figure 32 depicts the oval configuration as having a minor diameter of about 1.25 mm and a major diameter of approximately 3.0 mm. In the side view as depicted in Figure 31 the slot 506 is shown configured as an

ellipse with the upper and lower curves 507, 508 facing one another.

As can be appreciated and referring to Figures 10 and 16, this unique design allows for the controlled release of the stored elastic energy of the extruded lens thereby providing for the controlled insertion and placement of the lens into the eye. This prevents the lens from jumping or springing open and damaging the inside of the eye upon release therein. It also does not require that any type of cannula jaw arrangement be provided and opened within the eye which would increase the chances of endothelial or other touch.

Other configurations of the cannula tip having the above-described controlled release advantages are possible and examples thereof are illustrated in Figures 33-37. Figures 33 and 34 illustrate at 510 a second tip design — a split end, alligator type of tip. It is very similar to tip 500 with outwardly extending lips 512, 514 except that slot 516 is configured differently. It is seen in Figure 33 that the curves 517, 518 of slot 516 face the opposite directions. In the cannula tip 520 of Figures 35 and 36, a side angle cut 522 is provided as best shown in the profile of Figure 35. A slot 524 can be formed preferably at the upper or proximal point of angle cut 522. Tip 530 of Figure 37 simply includes a plurality of spaced radial holes 532 about the circumference. As depicted, the holes can be formed in a pattern of two parallel bands 534, 536.

Another embodiment of the invention is shown in Figs. 42 - 52, which is a simplified version of the insertion tool that is formed of inexpensive plastic and disposable after a lens has been implanted in the eye. As shown in Figs. 42 and 47, the instrument is similar in design to a syringe and includes a cannula body 602 that is connected to a tubular plunger chamber 604 through a bayonet-type locking mechanism described in greater detail below. A plunger 606 shown in Fig. 43 and a push rod 608 shown in Fig. 44 are designed to be inserted into a proximal end 610 of the plunger housing 604 in order to extrude and push a compressible intraocular lens for implantation in an eye as described in detail above in conjunction with other embodiments of the invention.

The cannula body 602 includes a loading chamber 612, a cannula 614 and a cannula holder 616. The loading chamber 612 is preferably formed of a transparent material so the surgeon can observe the location and condition of a compressed intraocular lens in the loading chamber 612. The cannula holder 616 can also be formed of a transparent material, as can the cannula 614 which would normally be formed of stainless steel.

The cannula 614 is formed as a separate element with a flared proximal end 618 (see Fig. 47) that is adapted to engage the distal end 620 of a

loading chamber 612 so that the inner passageways of the cannula 614 and of the loading chamber 612 are aligned. The passageway of the loading chamber 612 includes a cylindrical cross-sectional portion 612a into which a lens can be loaded (see Figs. 48-52) and a tapered conical portion 612b for compressing an intraocular lens as described above, the cross-sectional shape of the distal end 620 of the loading chamber 612 conforming to the cross-sectional shape of the passageway in the cannula 614 to provide for a smooth transition of the compressed intraocular lens from the loading chamber 612 to the cannula 614.

A bayonet locking mechanism described in greater detail below includes the cannula holder 616 which has an inner configuration that engages the flared proximal end 618 of the cannula 614 and a flared proximal end 622 of the loading chamber 612 for holding them together and locking them to the plunger housing 604. The cannula holder 616 includes a pair of bosses 624 that are adapted to engage cooperating slots 626 formed in the inner surface of a locking ring 628 on the distal end 629 of the plunger housing 604. After the bosses 624 are inserted into the slots 626, they are rotated into cooperating ring openings 630 for locking the cannula body 602 to the plunger housing 604.

The plunger housing 604 includes a smooth inner passageway 632 and 638 adapted to receive the plunger 606 and push rod 608 shown in Figs. 43 and 44, respectively. As described in greater detail above, the plunger 606 is used to push and force an intraocular lens into a passageway in the cannula 614 after the lens has been inserted in the proximal end 622 of the loading chamber 612 (as described in greater detail below) and the cannula body 602 is locked onto the plunger housing 604. The plunger 606 is formed with a plurality of longitudinal ribs 634 to provide the required strength necessary to compress an intraocular lens as described and to guide the plunger 606 along the inner passageway 632 and 638.

The outer surfaces of the ribs 634 are formed with a narrower neck portion 636 with a diameter slightly smaller than a narrowed portion 638 of the passageway 632. A head 640 formed of a soft material, such as a silicone elastomer, is connected to the neck portion of push rod 606 by means of an irregularly shaped projection 642 that is inserted into an opening 644 shaped to receive the projection 642 in the head 640. The head 640 deforms to allow the projection 642 to be inserted in place as shown in Fig. 45. The head 640 is preferably formed of a dark color so that it can easily be observed as it moves through the cannula body 602 so that the location and condition of an intraocular lens being forced through the cannula

body 602 can easily be observed by the operating physician.

The plunger 606 also includes a tapered portion 648 which is designed to engage a similarly shaped tapered portion 650 of the plunger housing passageway 632. The pushing action is achieved by the surgeon resting the palm of his hand or thumb (not shown) on a flat outer end 650 of the plunger 606 while his or her fingers engage a hexagonal-shaped ring section 652 formed on the outer surface of the plunger housing 604.

As described above in conjunction with the other embodiments to the invention, after the intraocular lens has been compressed and is fully inserted into the passageway of the cannula 614, the plunger 606 is removed from the plunger housing 604 and replaced with the push rod 608 shown in Fig. 44. Similar to the plunger 606, the push rod 608 is formed with reinforcing ribs 654 that are dimensioned to fit within the inner passageway 632 of the plunger housing 604, including a flared portion 656 that engages a cooperating portion 650 of the plunger housing passageway.

The push rod 608 also includes a flattened outer end 656 to be engaged by the thumb or palm of the operator and a neck portion 658 adapted to move within the plunger housing passageway portion 638. The push rod 608 further includes an elongated rod section 660 shaped slightly smaller than the inner passageway of the cannula 614, with a conically-shaped portion 662 connecting the rod section 660 and the neck 658.

A head 664 formed of a soft material such as a silicone elastomer that is of a dark color is detachably connected at the distal end of the rod section 660 through a projection 666 and shaped opening 668 arrangement shown in Fig. 46 that is similar to the one described in conjunction with Fig. 45 for the plunger 606. The head 664 is cup-shaped on its distal end for engaging the compressed intraocular lens and pushing it through the passageway of the cannula 614 as described above.

The distal end of the cannula 614 is formed with a pair of lip sections 670, 672 for allowing the intraocular lens to gradually be pushed from the cannula 614 without springing open and causing possible damage to an inner portion of the eye. It will be noticed that the lip 670 is longer than the lip 672, which enables the surgeon to insert the cannula through an incision in an eye more easily than with other shapes. The surgeon can also manipulate the tool so that the shorter lip is on the posterior side of an eye during an operation, which is believed will reduce the possibility of damaging the posterior wall of the capsular bag as the lens is being inserted in place.

Figs. 48-52 are provided to illustrate an easy

method of inserting an intraocular lens 674 into the proximal end 622 of the loading chamber 612 that has been charged with an appropriate lubricant, through the use of forceps 676. Figure 48 shows aligning the lens 674 so that the main axial plane of the lens is parallel with the axial plane of the slot formed between the lips 670, 672. As shown in Fig. 49, the intraocular lens 674 is tilted upwards so that one side of the optic portion 677 is moved against the proximal end 622 of the loading chamber 612 as shown by the arrow A, until the lens engages the loading chamber 612 as shown in Fig. 50. It will also be noticed that the more flexible haptic portion 678 of the intraocular lens 674 extends beyond the passageway of the loading chamber 612. However, with the combination of pushing the intraocular lens in the direction of the arrow A and rotating the forceps in the direction of the arrow B as shown in Fig. 50, the haptic 678 can be forced into the loading chamber 612 to a position shown in Fig. 51. As shown in Fig 52, the lens is slightly larger than the transverse dimensions of the passageway section 612a and is positioned in a slightly bowed condition.

After the intraocular lens has been inserted as just described, the cannula body 602 is locked to the plunger housing 604 through the bayonet-type locking system described in detail above. Afterwards, the plunger 606 and push rod 608 are used to extrude and push the intraocular lens through the cannula body 602 into a position to where it can be inserted in the appropriate location in the eye. The cannula 614 is then inserted into the eye and maneuvered to the point where the IOL can be implanted by pushing it out of the distal end of the cannula 614.

Figs. 53 and 54 illustrate the cannula 614 of the insertion tool of the present invention inserted through an incision I formed in the cornea of a human eye E so that an intraocular lens 674 can be implanted in the eye E. As shown in particular in Fig. 54, the cannula 614 has been inserted through the incision I and through the opening IR in the iris to a position where the intraocular lens 674 can be deposited in the capsular bag C where it is implanted to replace the natural lens of the eye that has already been removed. The deposition process is illustrated in Figs. 55-60 where an intraocular lens 674 is shown emerging from the distal end of the cannula 614 in the space between the lips 670 and 672. As the instrument is operated as discussed in detail above, the lens is pushed through the cannula 614 from the position shown in Fig. 53 where the haptic portion 678 is barely shown to where the lens totally emerges as shown in Fig. 60. This deposition process occurs while the cannula 614 is in the position shown in Fig. 54 so that when the intraocular lens 674 totally emerges

from the cannula 614, it can be deposited in the position shown in Fig. 54. This way, a physician can easily implant an intraocular lens through an incision in the cornea that is no greater than the diameter of the cannula 614 multiplied by 1.6, which accommodates the round shape of the cannula 614, and provides the advantages and features discussed above.

From the foregoing detailed description, it will be evident that there are numerous changes, adaptations and modifications of the present invention which will come within the knowledge of those skilled in the art, including the exchange of different tool component configurations of the various tools described such as their tip configurations. However, it is intended that all such variations not departing from the spirit of this invention be considered as within the scope thereof as defined by the claims appended below.

Claims

1. A tool for preparing for insertion into an eye an intraocular lens formed of a compressible material, comprising:
 - (a) an elongated hollow chamber with an inlet end and an outlet end;
 - (b) compressing means for compressing an intraocular lens formed of a compressible material to a smaller size that fits in the elongated chamber, the compressing means including an outlet adapted to be aligned with the inlet end of the elongated chamber; and
 - (c) pushing means for pushing the compressed intraocular lens through the elongated chamber from the inlet end through the outlet end.
2. The tool of claim 1, wherein the hollow chamber includes a passageway that is uniform in cross-section along its length.
3. The tool of claim 2, wherein the hollow chamber includes a passageway that is circular in cross-section.
4. The tool of claim 2, wherein the hollow chamber includes a passageway that is elliptical in cross-section.
5. The tool of claim 2, wherein the hollow chamber includes a passageway that is oval in cross-section.
6. The tool of claim 2, wherein the hollow chamber includes a passageway that is a parallelogram in cross-section.
7. The tool of claim 1, wherein the outlet end of the elongated chamber includes gradual release means for allowing the compressed lens to gradually release its stored energy and gradually return to its initial shape as the lens is pushed out of the outlet end of the elongated chamber.

8. The tool of claim 7, wherein the gradual release means includes configuring the outlet end to include a pair of contoured lips on opposite sides of the outlet end separated by a generally v-shaped notch.

9. The tool of claim 8, wherein the lips are about the same length.

10. The tool of claim 8, wherein one of the lips is longer than the other lip.

11. The tool of claim 8, wherein the gradual release means includes configuring the outlet end so that one side of the outlet end is longer than the other side.

12. The tool of claim 11, wherein the side opposite the longer side includes a slot extending away from the end.

13. The tool of claim 8, wherein the outlet end includes a plurality of spaced radial openings communicating with the passageway.

14. The tool of claim 13, wherein the radial openings are arranged in at least two parallel bands.

15. The tool of claim 1, wherein the elongated chamber is formed of a transparent material.

16. The tool of claim 1, wherein the elongated chamber and the compressing means are formed of separate components and further including connecting means for connecting the elongated chamber and compressing means so that the outlet of the compressing means and inlet end of the elongated chamber are aligned.

17. The tool of claim 16, wherein the compressing means includes a housing with an elongated channel having at least one longitudinal wall communicating with the outlet, sliding compressing means for cooperating with the channel and compressing an intraocular lens against the longitudinal wall, clamping means for clamping the sliding compressing means in place after the intraocular lens is compressed.

18. The tool of claim 17, wherein the longitudinal wall and the compressing means are shaped to form an elliptical channel when the sliding compressing means is moved toward the longitudinal wall.

19. The tool of claim 16, wherein the compressing means includes a housing with a longitudinal slot communicating with the outlet, a pair of sliding compressing means moveable toward each other in the slot for compressing an intraocular lens between them, clamping means for clamping the sliding compressing means in place after the intraocular lens is compressed.

20. The tool of claim 19, wherein the portions of the pair of sliding compressing means facing each other are shaped so that the longitudinal slot is elliptical in cross-section.

5 21. The tool of claim 19, wherein the portions of the pair of sliding compressing means facing each other are shaped so that the longitudinal slot is round in cross-section.

10 22. The tool of claim 19, wherein the portions of the pair of sliding compressing means facing each other are shaped so that the longitudinal slot is oval in cross-section.

15 23. The tool of claim 19, wherein the portions of the pair of sliding compressing means facing each other are shaped so that the longitudinal slot is diamond-shaped cross-section.

20 24. The tool of claim 16, wherein the compressing means includes a housing with an elongated channel communicating with the outlet, a pair of cams mounted on the housing to move back and forth into the channel, a pair of hand levers connected to the cams for moving the cams toward and away from each other for compressing an intraocular lens in the channel when the cams are moved toward each other.

25 25. The tool of claim 1 wherein the pushing means includes a plunger housing removably connected to the housing aligned with the elongated channel, a plunger moveable back and forth in the plunger housing and the elongated channel for pushing a compressed intraocular lens into and through the elongated chamber.

30 26. The tool of claim 25, wherein the plunger includes first and second plunger sections, the plunger housing and first plunger section having cooperating threads so that rotation of the first plunger section relative to the housing will cause the second plunger section to move longitudinally relative to the housing.

35 27. The tool of claim 25, wherein the plunger housing has finger hold means on its outer surface, and the plunger includes an outer end engageable by an operator so that the plunger housing can be held with one hand for moving the plunger longitudinally in the plunger housing.

40 28. The tool of claim 1, wherein the compressing means includes a loading chamber that is tapered along at least a portion of its length, the loading chamber including an inlet opening at one end and an outlet opening at the other end that is smaller than the inlet opening and communicating with the inlet end of the elongated chamber.

45 29. The tool of claim 28, wherein the loading chamber includes a first portion of uniform cross-section adjacent to the inlet opening, and a second portion of gradually decreasing cross-section extending between the first portion and the outlet opening.

50 30. The tool of claim 28, and further including a cannula body through which the loading chamber and elongated chamber extend, the inlet opening of

the loading chamber being at one end of the cannula body and the outlet end of the elongated chamber at the other end of the cannula body.

31. The tool of claim 30, and further including a plunger housing, and connecting means for removably connecting the cannula body to the plunger housing, the plunger housing being aligned with the loading chamber.

32. The tool of claim 31, wherein the loading chamber is formed of a transparent material.

33. The tool of claim 31, wherein the compressing means further includes a first removable plunger that is moveable back and forth in the housing, the first plunger including a head adapted to compress a compressible intraocular lens by pushing it through the loading chamber and into the elongated chamber.

34. The tool of claim 33, wherein the compressing means further includes a second removable plunger that is moveable back and forth in the housing, the second plunger including a neck portion adapted to fit in the elongated chamber and a head connected to the neck portion adapted to push the compressed intraocular lens through the elongated chamber.

35. The tool of claims 33 or 34, wherein the head is formed of a relatively soft deformable material for preventing damage to the intraocular lens.

36. The tool of claim 34, wherein the head is cup-shaped on the portion adapted to engage the intraocular lens.

37. The tool of claims 33 or 31, and further including releasable connection means between the head and plunger.

38. The tool of claim 31, wherein the connecting means includes cooperating threads formed on the cannula body and plunger housing.

39. The tool of claim 31, wherein the connecting means includes a bayonet locking system including a flange formed at the inlet opening of the cannula body, a sleeve member with at least one boss adapted to fit over the cannula body and engage the flange, a receiver with a slot and opening for each boss formed in the plunger housing for receiving the bosses and locking the cannula body to the plunger housing.

40. The tool of claims 33 or 34, wherein the plunger housing and first and second plungers include cooperating surfaces so that the plunger can move longitudinally relative to the housing.

41. The tool of claim 40, wherein the plunger housing has finger hold means on its outer surface, and the first and second plungers include an outer end engageable by an operator so that the plunger housing can be held with one hand for moving the first and second plungers longitudinally in the plunger housing.

42. The tool of claims 30 or 31, wherein the plunger housing and the first and second plungers include cooperating threads so that the first and second plungers move longitudinally in and out as their threads are rotated relative to the housing.

43. A method of preparing an intraocular lens formed of a compressible material for insertion into an eye, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a loading chamber, a cannula having a proximal end communicating with said loading chamber and an opposite distal end, an extruding means for extruding a compressible intraocular lens from said loading chamber into said cannula, and an ejecting means for ejecting the extruded lens out said distal end,

(b) positioning a compressible intraocular lens into said loading chamber,

(c) extruding with said extruding means said lens from said loading chamber into said cannula through said distal end.

44. The method of claim 43 and further comprising the step of lubricating said loading chamber before step (b).

45. The method of claim 43 wherein step (b) further includes moving a lens with an optic and flexible flanges projecting from the optic at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the said loading chamber into engagement with the entrance of said loading chamber, and pushing said lens forward into said chamber while rotating said lens until it is parallel to said axis, and pressing said lens forward and into the loading chamber.

46. The method of claim 44, and further including the step of connecting the loading chamber and extruding means after step (b).

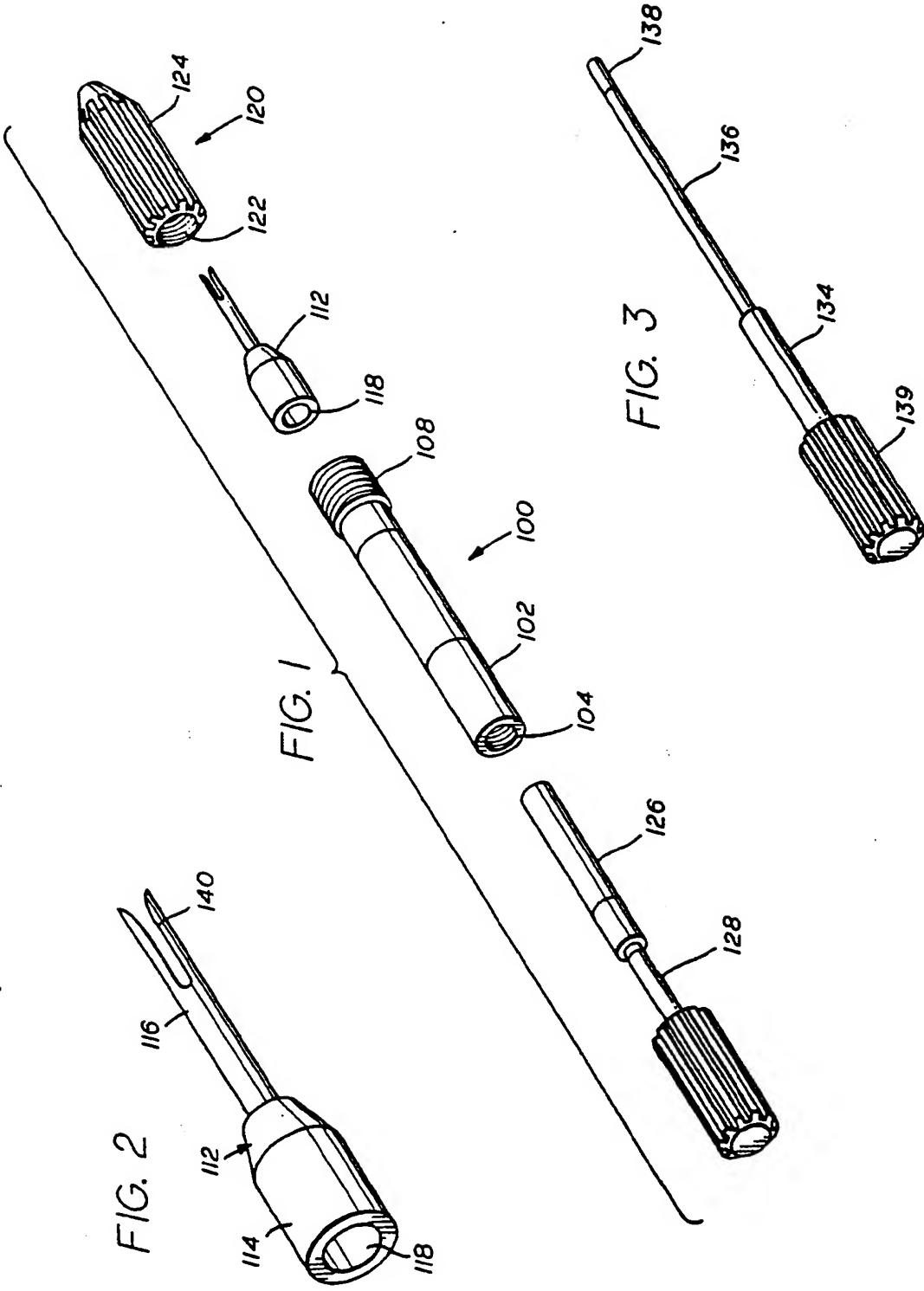
47. The method of claim 43, wherein steps (b) and (c) include squeezing a lens in a chamber to a size that can be pushed into the cannula.

48. The method of claim 47, wherein step (c) includes using a plunger to push the lens from the chamber into the cannula.

49. The method of claim 43, wherein step (c) includes pushing the lens through a chamber that is at least partially tapered toward the cannula.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein step (c) includes using a plunger with an end formed of a deformable material for pushing the lens through the chamber and replacing the plunger with a push rod with an end formed of a deformable material for pushing the lens through the cannula.

51. The method of claim 43, wherein step (a) includes providing the distal end with means for allowing the lens to gradually release its stored energy as the lens emerges from the cannula.



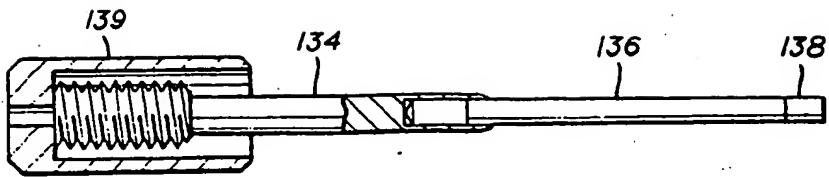


FIG. 4

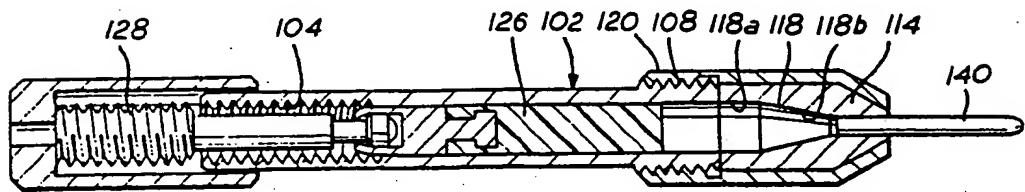


FIG. 5

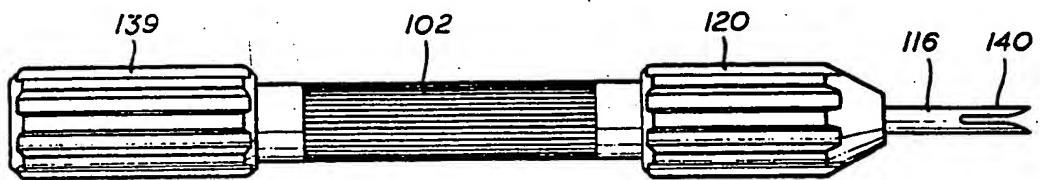


FIG. 6

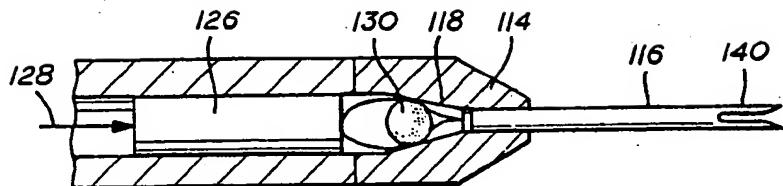


FIG. 7

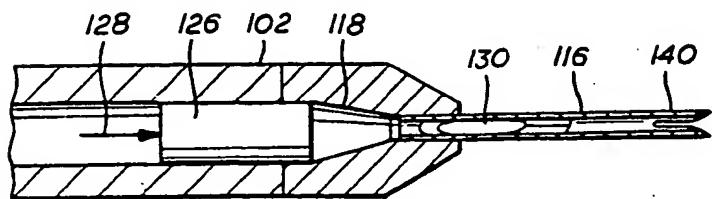


FIG. 8

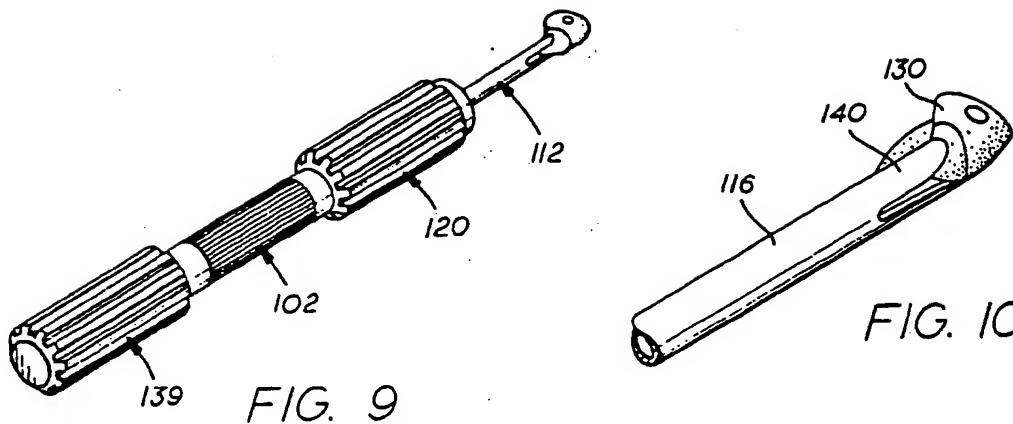


FIG. 10

FIG. 9

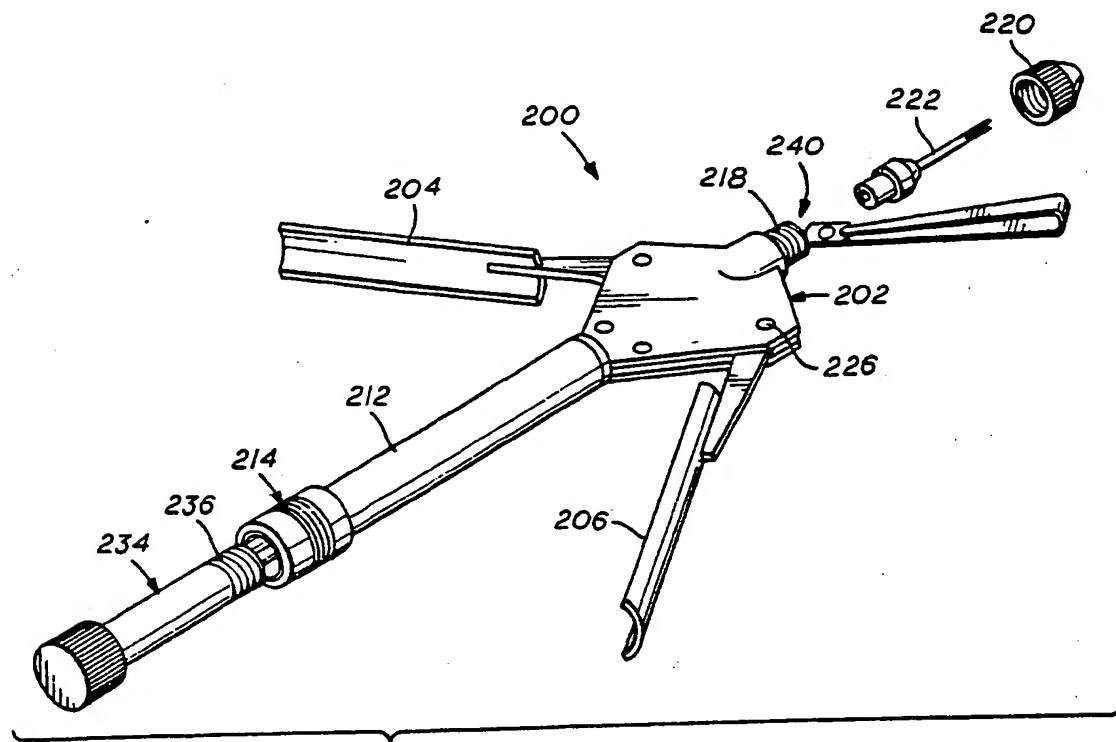
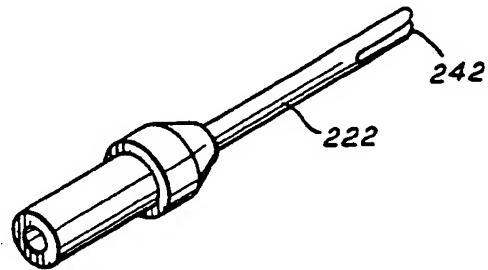


FIG. 11

FIG. 12



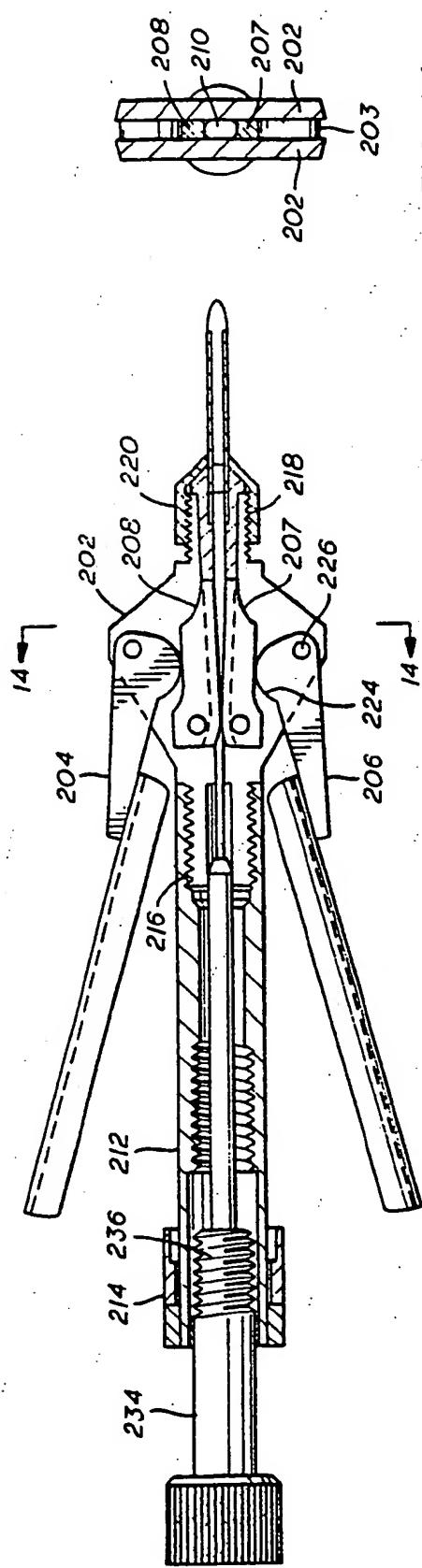


FIG. 14

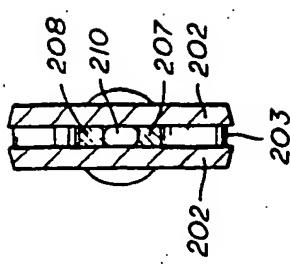


FIG. 16

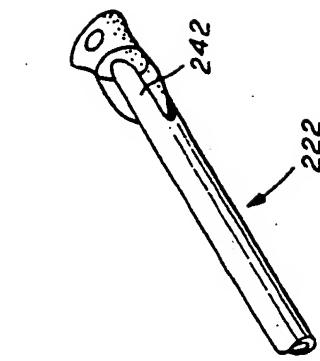
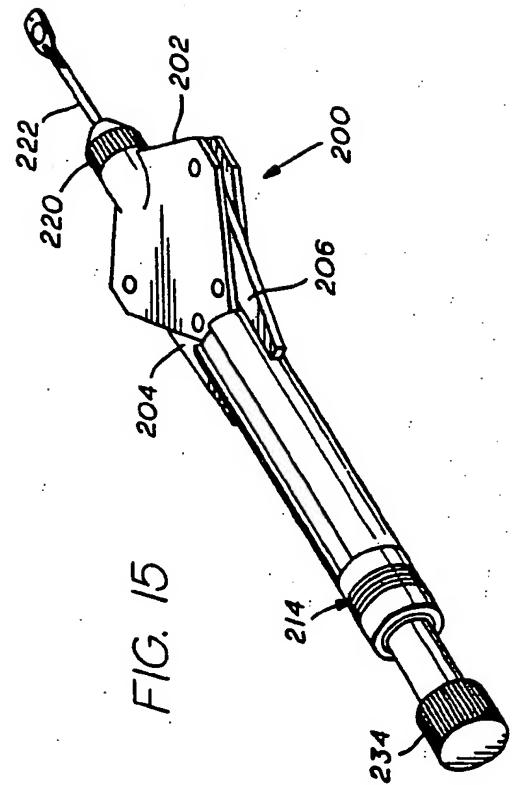


FIG. 15



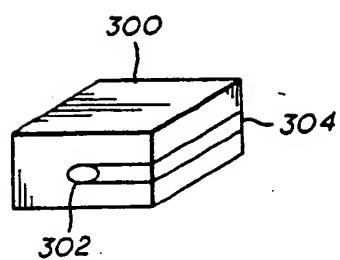


FIG. 17

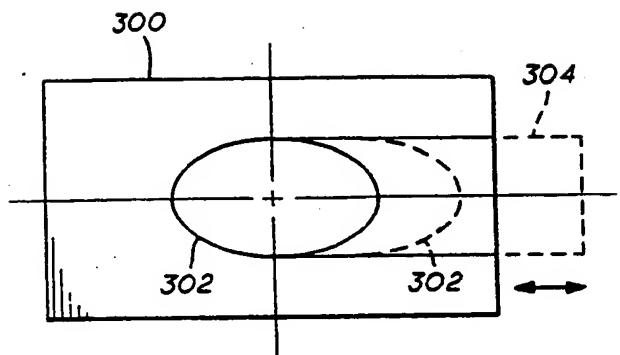


FIG. 18

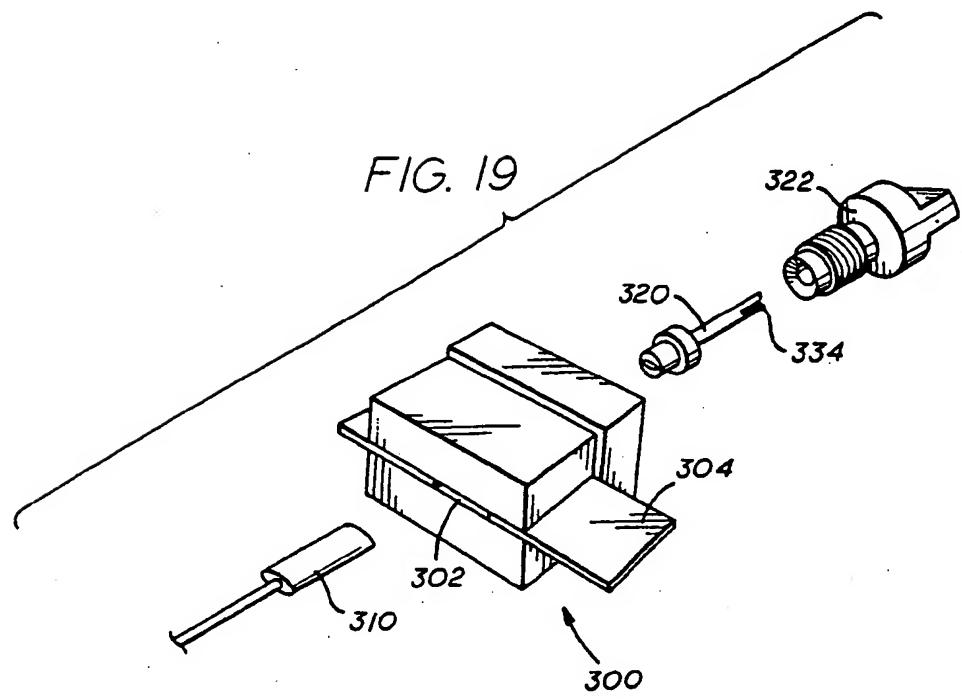
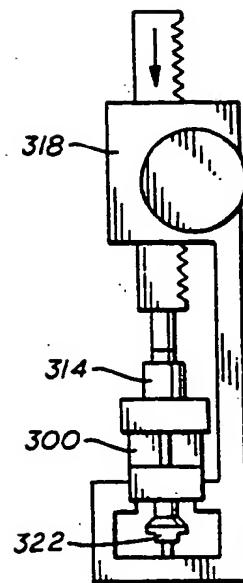
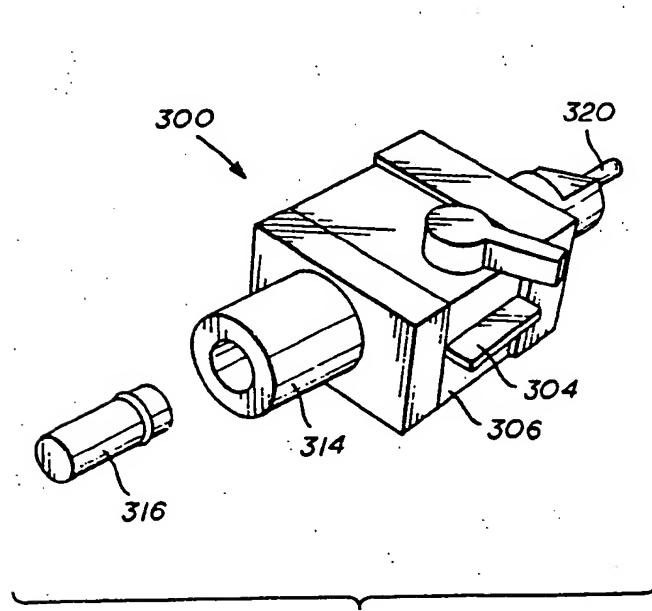
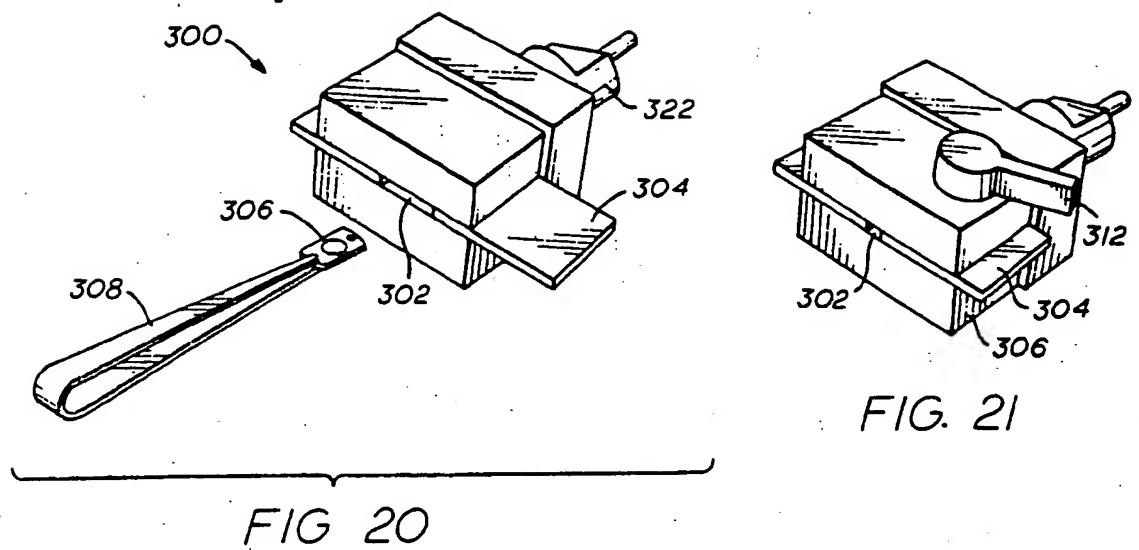


FIG. 19



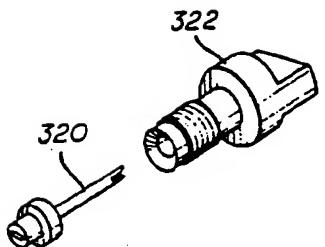


FIG. 24

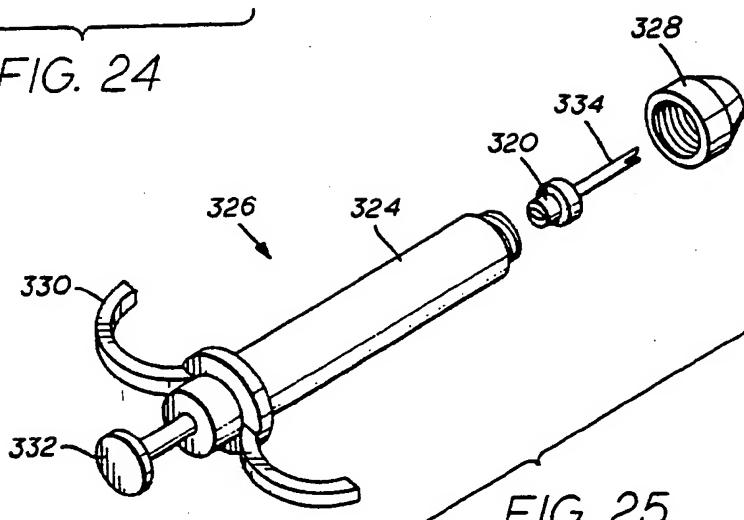


FIG. 25

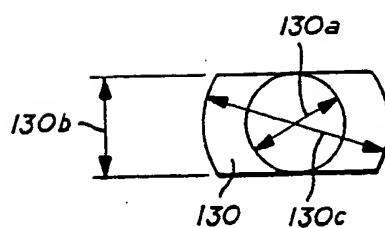


FIG. 26

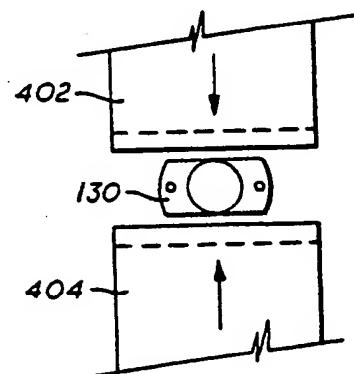


FIG. 27

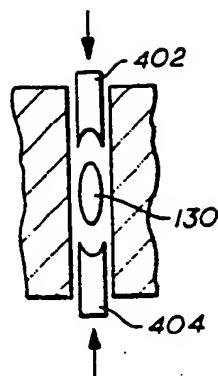


FIG. 28

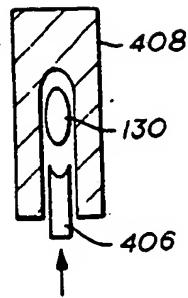


FIG. 29

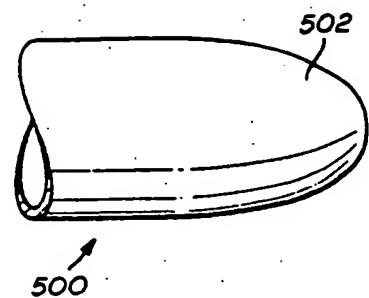


FIG. 30

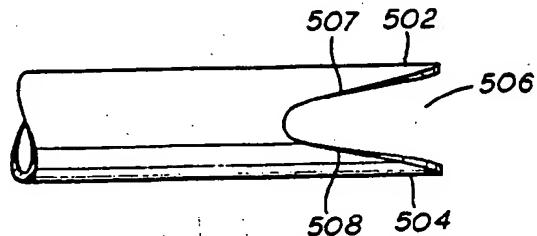


FIG. 31

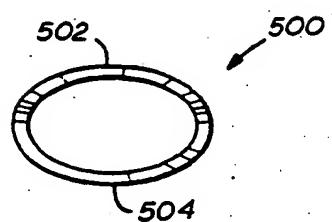


FIG. 32

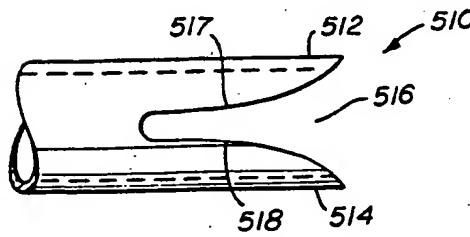


FIG. 33

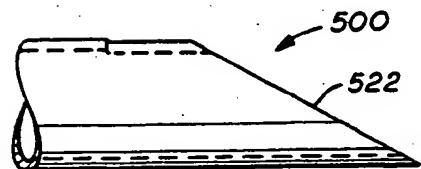


FIG. 35

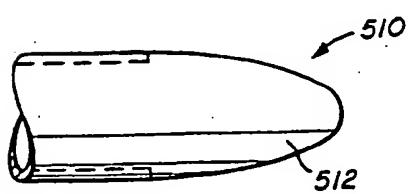


FIG. 34

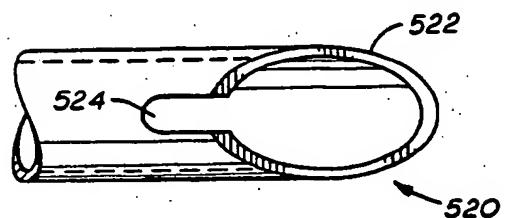


FIG. 36

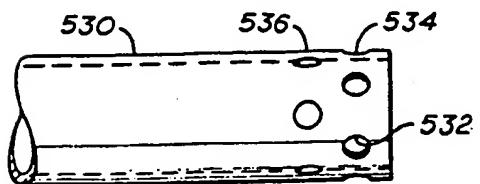


FIG. 37

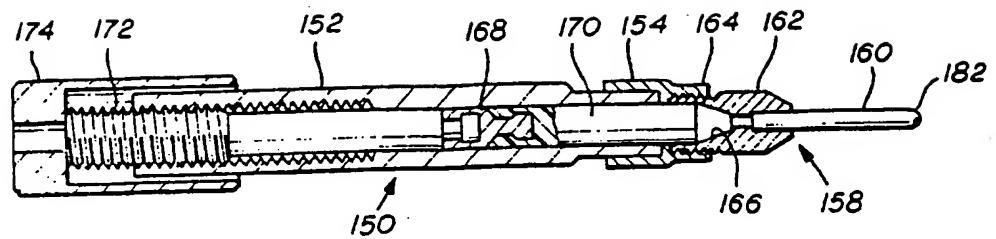


FIG. 38

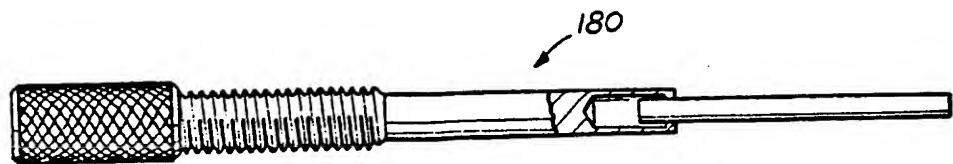


FIG. 39

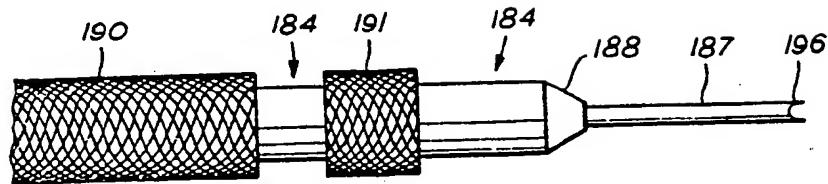


FIG. 40

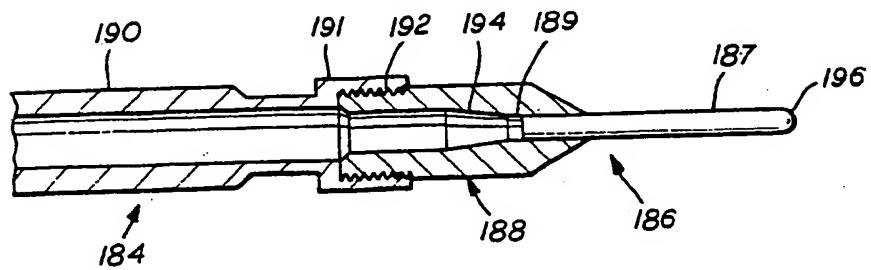


FIG. 41

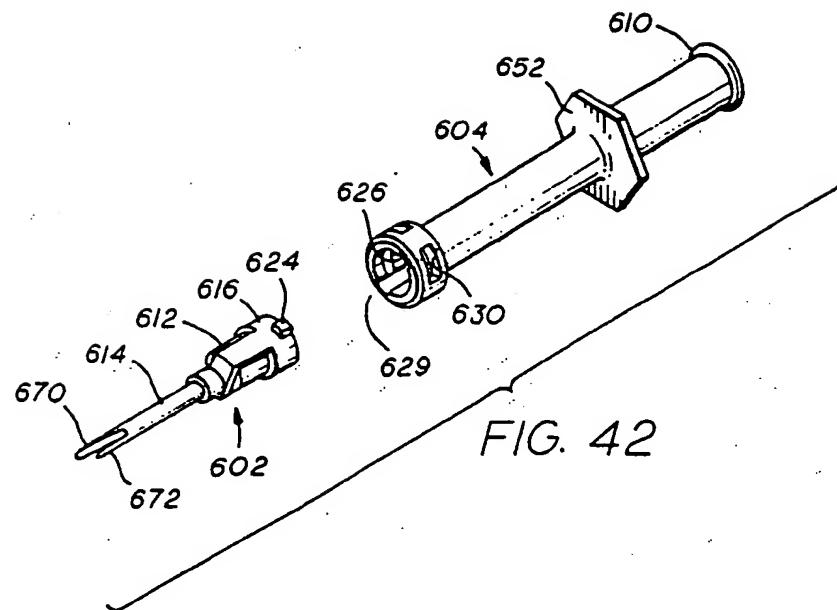


FIG. 42

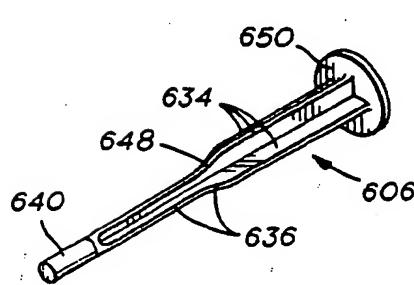


FIG. 43

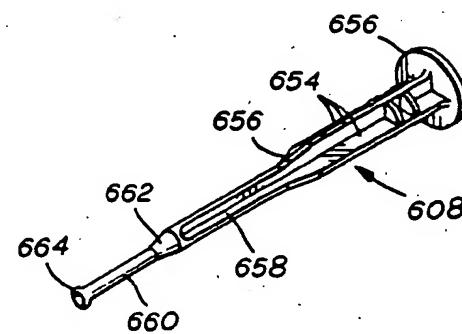


FIG. 44

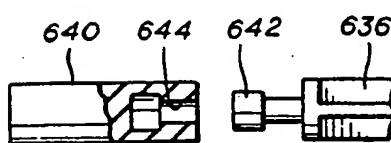


FIG. 45

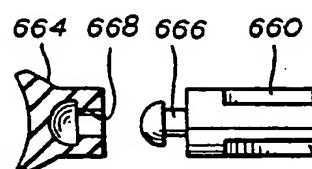
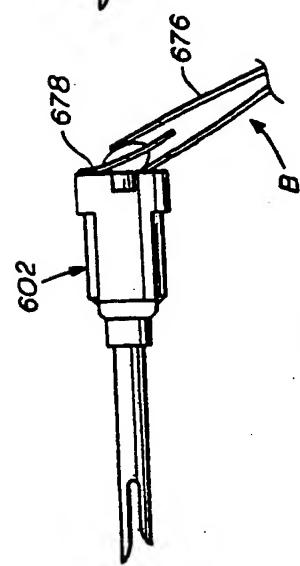
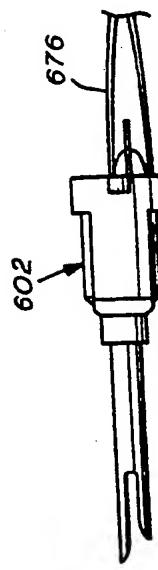
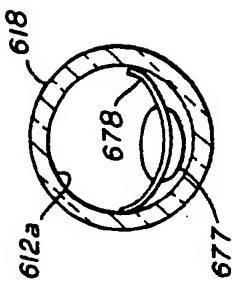
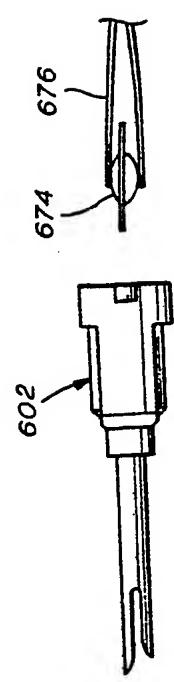
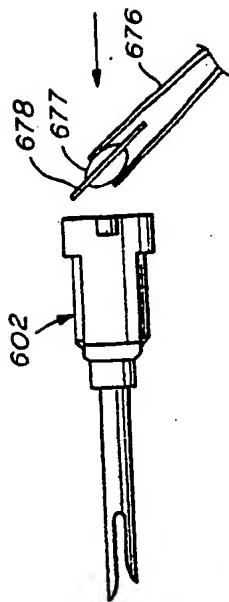
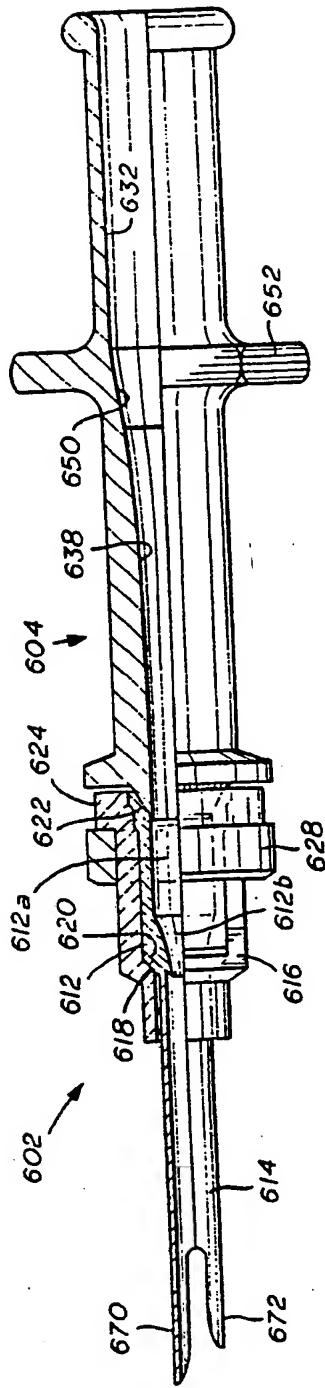


FIG. 46



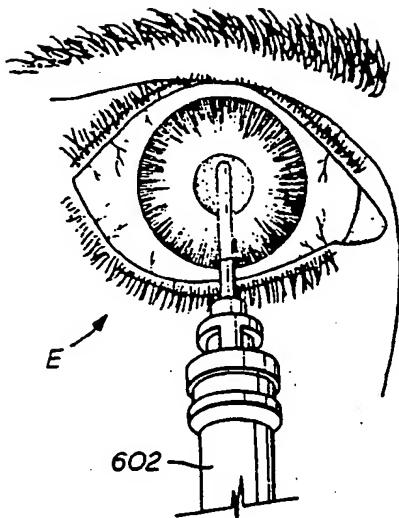


FIG. 53

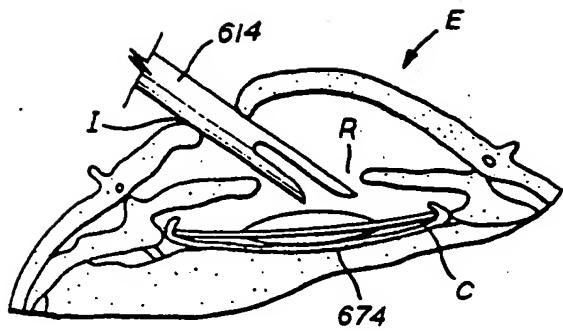


FIG. 54

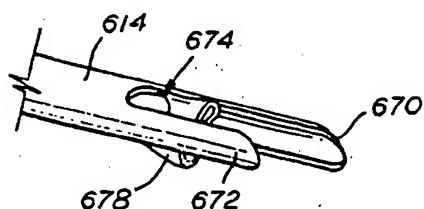


FIG. 55

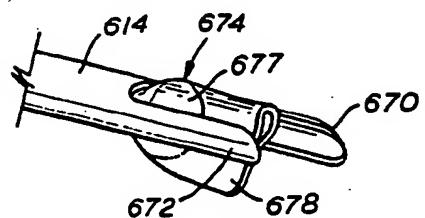


FIG. 56

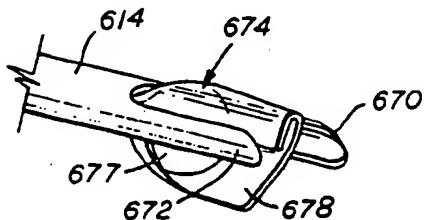


FIG. 57

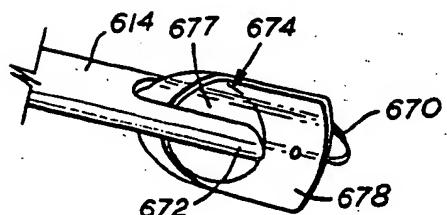


FIG. 58

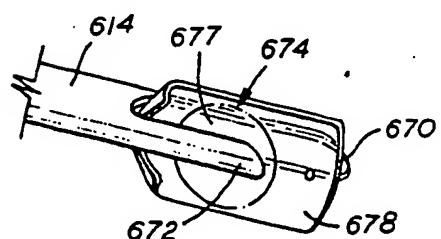


FIG. 59

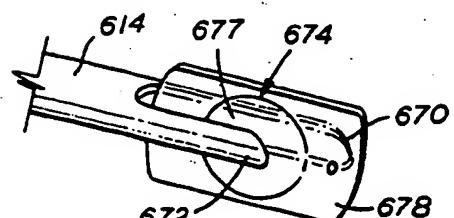


FIG. 60



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

EP 87 30 9839

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)						
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim							
D, X	GB-A-2 114 315 (MAZZOCCHI) * Page 6, line 121 - page 8, line 60; figures 37-59 *	1-3, 15, 16	A 61 F 2/16						
A	US-A-4 585 457 (KALB) ---								
A	FR-A-2 467 589 (PARDO) ---								
P, X	GB-A-2 180 759 (MAZZOCCHI) * Abstract; figures *	1-3, 8, 9 , 25							
P, X	US-A-4 681 102 (BARTELL) * Figure 4; column 5, line 62 - column 6, line 9 *	1-3, 25							
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)						
			A 61 F						
<p>The present search report has been drawn up for all claims</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Place of search</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Date of completion of the search</td> <td style="width: 34%;">Examiner</td> </tr> <tr> <td>THE HAGUE</td> <td>08-02-1988</td> <td>STEEBAKKER J.</td> </tr> </table>				Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner	THE HAGUE	08-02-1988	STEEBAKKER J.
Place of search	Date of completion of the search	Examiner							
THE HAGUE	08-02-1988	STEEBAKKER J.							
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